

You Don't Owe Me

Bible:

Bottom Line: I choose peace by choosing to forgive.

Memory Verse: "So let us do all we can to live in peace. And let us work hard to build up one another." Romans 14:19, NIV

Life App: Peace—choosing to care more about each other than being right.

Basic Truth: I can trust God no matter what

Social: Setting the Tone for the Experience (9:00, 10:15, 11:30)

Early Arriver

- No supplies needed

Bible: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways (9:15, 10:30, 11:45)

- Bible Presentation in Large Group

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (9:40, 10:55, 12:10)

9:00 & 11:30

Forgiveness is Freedom

- No supplies needed

10:15

Weighted Down

- "Weighted Down" Activity Page; 10 weights for each kid
- "Henry's Choices" Activity Page; 1 for each kid
- A heavy backpack and an empty backpack
- Glue sticks
- Markers or crayons

Prayer (9:50, 11:05, 12:20)

- "Let it Go" from Frozen on the Presentation computer

Dismiss (10:00, 11:15, 12:30)

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Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction (Small Groups, 15 minutes)

Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Get ready to experience today's Bible Truth.

Before kids arrive, pray for each regular attendee by name. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Ask God to help kids realize the great forgiveness God has made available to them. Pray that they would fully embrace the love He has offered them and be excited to share it with others.

All Service Times

Early Arriver Idea

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Ask:
 - What is the absolute biggest number you can think of?
 - If someone broke your favorite toy that many times, would you let them borrow it again?

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

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Bible: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways (Large Group, 35 minutes)

GETTING READY

1. Opener/Closer

What You Need:

- Host
- 3 Volunteers
- Three cardstock or cardboard signs that say: "VERY DRAMATIC CONSEQUENCES" (one word per sign), strung with yarn to hang around volunteer's necks
- 2 drop cloths
- 2 bags of sunflower seeds (to play the part of broccoli seeds)
- 2 bags of soil
- 2 spray water bottles
- 2 large pots
- 20+ small plastic spoons
- Giant, cooked broccoli stalk

2. Bible Truth

What You Need:

- Historyteller

3. Worship

What You Need:

- Power Praise Team

Music and Sound Effects (SFX):

- "God is For Us"
- "Raise Your Hands"
- "Fearfully and Wonderfully Made"

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Bible: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways (Large Group, 35 minutes)

Engage kids' hearts through a dynamic and interactive Bible Truth, worship, and prayer experience in a Large Group setting.

CG: Theme Slide

Host is on stage, welcoming the kids as they enter.

Opener

HOST: "Hey, everybody! Happy October! Isn't this just about the BEST month of the year? It's finally starting to get cool at night, the baseball playoffs are shaping up, and we've got all that CANDY to look forward to at the end of the month. And right now, we have praise and worship to look forward to. Help me welcome the Power Praise Team!"

Power Praise team enters as Host joins the audience.

Worship

POWER PRAISE: "Wow, today is already off to a great start. Make sure you're up on your feet. We are singing to the God who created this world! Let's praise Him together. Sing along with me."

SFX: "God is For Us"

"Woo-hoo! Keep that excitement going with this next song!"

SFX: "Raise Your Hands"

"Great job. During this next song I want you to think about how God made you on purpose and for a specific purpose. When we get so mixed up with jealousy, anger, or unforgiveness, we can lose sight of that purpose and start to feel alone and far away from God. Use this song to talk with God and ask him to help you stay focused on Him and to thank Him for making you exactly how He needs you to be."

SFX: "Fearfully and Wonderfully Made"

"Amazing. It is always amazing to see you all worship God the way that you do and to open up to Him and talk with Him. Have a great week and we will see you again real soon."

Power Praise exits as Host retakes the stage.

HOST: “Thank you Power Praise!”

“It’s game time folks! I have a great game for us today!!”

SFX: “*Try Everything*” instrumental

“We’re going to play—a little game I like to call ‘Use It or Lose It.’

CG: *Use It or Lose It Theme Slide*

“It’s very simple, really. I will present two lucky contestants with an opportunity. One contestant will be victorious. But for the other contestant, there will be very dramatic consequences!”

SFX: *Drama Button*

Three volunteers enter, with dramatic faces, holding their VERY DRAMATIC CONSEQUENCES signs. Then they exit.

“In today’s edition of our game, we’re going to do a little fall planting. Yes, that’s right. I said FALL planting. Everybody knows you’ve got to take care of your plants. Let me get two entire small groups up here on stage to play ‘Use It or Lose It!’

Bring two small groups up on stage.

“All right! [SGL’s name]’s and [other SGL’s name]’s, it’s time for you to make the most of your opportunity to plant a nice, juicy crop of . . . BROCCOLI. Your job is to pick three kids from your small group and work together to plant these seeds. (*Hold up the bags of sunflower seeds.*) Each group has a bag of seeds, a bag of soil, a spray water bottle, and a pot. (*Reference each item.*) We’re going to see which group can create the most beautiful, most professionally planted pot full of seeds in 30 seconds. And you won’t have a shovel or a trowel—just these plastic spoons.

Hand each person in the group a small plastic spoon.

“I’ll be judging you on speed as well as tidiness. So do your very best! Remember, the winning group gets the glory. The other group will receive . . .

SFX: *Drama button*

“. . . very dramatic consequences!”

Three volunteers enter with the signs. They exit.

“This is your big chance to ‘Use It or Lose It!’ (*To audience*) You guys cheer them on. We’ve got 30 seconds on the clock, aaaaaaand go!

SFX: “*Try Everything*” instrumental (*or other upbeat game music*)

The two groups try to plant their seeds in their pots (on top of the drop cloth). Host comments on the action.

SFX: Buzzer (after 30 seconds)

“Great job, contestants! (*Ad lib similar to the following based on what your kids did.*) Let’s see which one of you made the most of your broccoli challenge. [SGL’s name]’s group, you definitely got some seeds planted, but it looks like a wild boar might have gotten into them. It’s little messy. [Other SGL’s name], your broccoli bucket looks exquisite.

“[SGL’s name]’s group, you are today’s champions! Which means that [other SGL’s name]’s group, you must face very dramatic consequences.

SFX: Drama Button

The three volunteers enter, with dramatic faces and signs, and one carries a giant, cooked broccoli stalk.

“Your leader must spend the rest of large group eating this very large stalk of broccoli! Yum!

“How about a hand for both of our small groups? You guys can have a seat.

Both groups go back to their seats.

“That was awesome. Fall is a really fun time. In October, there are SO many great things happening right now that you don’t even want to blink, or you’ll miss ’em! For the past four weeks we’ve been talking about, what’s that word?

CG: Peace Slide

“Peace! Yeah, and peace is choosing to care more about others than being right. We really don’t want you to miss this because choosing peace changes so much about our lives and how we see the world. It’s not an easy sunshine and rainbow every day choice. It’s a hard choice to make sometimes because feelings are always involved and feelings can make things messy. That’s why we should always look to God’s truth as our example of how to act. Help me welcome [Historyteller’s Name] to show us one more place we can look, in the Bible, for an example of how Jesus chose peace, and how we can choose peace also.”

Historyteller enters as Host exits.

SETTING UP THE BIBLE TRUTH

HISTORYTELLER: “A couple of weeks ago we talked about a guy names Peter. He was one of Jesus’ best friends. They spent a lot of time together. Jesus’ actions and words were getting through to Peter and many others—they were understanding that He truly was the Son of God! But not everyone believed that, and they certainly weren’t happy about what Jesus said about Himself. Jesus tried to prepare His disciples for the future, explaining to them that He would not be with them for much longer.”

“Do you remember how Peter protested and said he would follow Jesus anywhere—that he would give

his life for Jesus. But Jesus knew that Peter wasn't going to live up to his words. What did Jesus tell Peter he would do three times before the rooster crowed?

When the correct answer is given, play the audio clip.

SFX: "Jesus' Words to Peter" Clip

ROUND THREE: THE MISSION

"Yeah, Peter denied that he knew Jesus. Peter told Jesus that would never happen—that he would never deny Jesus, but everything happened just as Jesus said it would. Peter denied knowing Him three times. And the third time ...

SFX: Rooster Crowing

"Okay, things are starting to get a little serious here."

"Because, you see, things got worse after that ... much worse. Jesus was accused of things He didn't even do. He was beaten, whipped, stabbed and crucified on a rough wooden cross.

CG: The Cross Slide

"He hung there, high on a hill in the dust and heat, listening to people call him names, spit at him, make fun of him and call him crazy, until ... well, He died. He did nothing, absolutely nothing to deserve even a small part of what happened to him. That would make most of us very angry. Has anyone ever gotten mad at you and shouted 'I'm not your friend anymore?'

"Yeah, well, do you know what Jesus said, right before He died? *(Pause for answers)* Luke tells us in chapter 23 verse 34 of his book in the bible. Jesus said "Father," that's what Jesus called God, "Father, forgive them."

Wow! Talk about peaceful. Forgive them. He didn't say, hurt them, or forget them, or I hate you all, or you're not my friend. No, he said forgive them. He chose to show them all how much he cared for them by forgiving them."

WRAPPING UP THE BIBLE TRUTH

HISTORYTELLER: "If he had chosen not to forgive, you and I would not be able to have the relationship that we have God. We wouldn't be able to say that because we choose Jesus as our Lord and savior we get to go to Heaven when we die. Jesus knew that. Jesus had every right to be angry but instead He was able to choose peace. He was able to love others by forgiving them. He showed us that sometimes choosing peace is choosing to forgive others, even when they might not deserve it or even be sorry."

But choosing to forgive is more about you than it is the person or people that hurt you. It's so that God can still love others through your kindness, your compassion, your love. If you can't forgive, you can't do any of that."

CG: Bottom Line Slide

[Impress] “I choose to care about others by choosing to forgive. Let’s pray and ask Him for courage and wisdom on how to do it!

Pray

HISTORYTELLER: “God, thank You for not giving up on Peter and for not giving up on us. Thank you Jesus for showing us that You love us and You came to forgive us. You made a way for us to have peace with God! Help us to choose peace by choosing to forgive others, even when they might not even be sorry for what happened. In Your name, we pray. Amen.”

“If you have an offering with you today go ahead and bring that on up to the bucket.”

Historyteller exits as Host enters.

Closer

HOST: “I know people say it all the time but, it is so true; Jesus is AMAZING. We’ve seen him choose peace with an angry mob, with his friends who betrayed him, and now with people who killed him. Wow! He really shows us how serious He is about our memory verse. Read it with me.”

CG: Memory Verse Slide

“It says: “So let us do all we can to live in peace. And let us work hard to build up one another.” Romans 14:19, NIV.”

“This is a simple verse to say—I bet you all have it almost memorized! But even if it’s easy to remember, it’s not always simple to put into practice. We are supposed to choose peace even when our emotions might be all wacky.”

“If peace is choosing to care about others more than being right then that means that no matter what we *feel*, we are supposed to stop thinking about ourselves and do whatever it takes to keep or make peace between us and others. Sometimes that means that we have to choose to forgive, even if we are right about something. We get to choose to care about others by choosing to forgive. I promise you, when you start forgiving people, even when they don’t apologize, it makes you feel better inside and it lets you stay closer to God because you aren’t distracted. Being angry with people can distract you and that just gets in the way of our relationship with God. Say the bottom line with me.”

CG: Bottom Line Slide

HOST and KIDS: [Bottom Line] “I Choose peace by choosing to forgive.”

HOST: “Yes! You guys will hear more about what that looks like in your small groups. Have fun, and we’ll see you next time!”

Dismiss children to their Small Groups.

CG: Small Group Slide

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Basic Truth: I can trust God no matter what

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (10 minutes)

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible Truth applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

9:00 & 11:30

Forgiveness is Freedom

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Designate a person to be the "freezer" and another to be the "forgiver"
- Explain that the game is like freeze tag.
- There will be no running, only speed walking. (*Anyone caught running will be asked to sit out.*)
- The freezer will walk around freezing people while the forgiver will unfreeze people by whispering "you are forgiven" in their ear.

What You Say:

"You know, when we choose not to forgive people, it can freeze us from enjoying all that God has planned for us. When we do not forgive someone for not sharing or pushing us, or worse, then we spend a lot of time being angry at them. When we spend time being angry at people, we lose time loving God. He doesn't want that and neither should we. When the freezer froze you, you couldn't move until the forgiver came. I know the game was fun, but that's actually close to what it is like when we do not forgive others. In our Bible Truth today, Jesus was dying because people had beat him, spit at him, cut him, crucified him and were super cruel to Him. But did He say, 'I hate you!' or 'You're going to be sorry!' or 'I'm not your friend anymore?' No! He said "Forgive them father." We can forgive because Jesus forgave us. Will you choose peace in your life by choosing to forgive?"

10:15

Weighted Down

What You Need: "Weighted Down" Activity Page, "Henry's Choices" Activity Pages, glue sticks, crayons, differently weighted backpacks

What You Do:

- Set the backpacks out and invite kids to take turns picking them up. (You may have to guide them to take turns or call kids up one at a time.)

- Ask kids if any of them have heavy backpacks that they take to school every day. Does anyone walk to school wearing a big backpack? What about kids who ride the bus? Is it difficult to climb the stairs of the bus with a heavy backpack on?
- Tell kids that when somebody won't forgive someone else for something, it's like they have a heavy backpack to carry and they feel weighted down. It's hard to do anything if you're carrying all that weight.
- Then give each kid 10 weights and a "Henry's Choices" Activity Page.
- Read Henry's forgiveness choices (below) one at a time.
- For each situation, let kids decide if they think it would be hard to forgive or if they think they could forgive pretty easily.
- For the ones they think would be difficult, they can glue a weight on or near Henry's backpack.
- For the choices they think they could forgive pretty easily, they should glue the weight near his feet.
- Encourage kids to make their own choices. Tell them it's okay if they don't think it'd be easy to forgive in every situation. As kids make their choices, you can ask them why they feel the way they do. But be careful that the activity doesn't take so long that they get bored or become disengaged.
- Allow kids to color their pictures once you've gone through all the choices.

Henry's Choices:

- While Henry was trying to go down the slide, his friend kept climbing up the slide and blocking him from going down.
- Henry's grandpa promised that he would play ball with him when he came over, but he got too busy talking to the adults.
- Henry's sister knocked down the LEGO® creation he had been working on for two days.
- Henry's dad told him he wasn't allowed to play outside with his friends one afternoon.
- When his friends were throwing rocks on the playground, Henry's teacher punished him too even though he didn't throw any rocks. She said she was sorry.
- Henry's mom gave some of his toys away and he didn't get to pick which ones.
- Henry's dog tore up the pages of his favorite book.
- Henry's baby brother cried all night and kept Henry awake.
- Henry's friend didn't pick him to play on the basketball team at recess.

What You Say:

"Could you imagine if Henry didn't forgive at all? His backpack would have been way too heavy to carry. When we choose not to forgive, it weighs our hearts down just like it weighed down his backpack. The good news is we can always make the choice to show others forgiveness like we've received from God! **[Make It Personal] (Tell kids about a time when you didn't want to forgive, but then you remembered how much forgiveness God has shown you and you asked yourself 'What would Jesus do.')** **[Bottom Line] I choose peace by choosing to forgive."**

All Service Times**Pray and Dismiss (10 minutes)****[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]***Made to Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application***What You Need:** “Let It Go” from *Frozen* on presentation computer**What You Do:**

- Tell kids that since we’re all going to be “letting go” of and forgiving the wrong things others have done to us, you’re going to sing “Let It Go” together!
- Play and sing “Let it Go” with your group. Try to really ham it up and be silly with them! This will make the shy, quieter kids feel more comfortable belting it out with the group.

What You Say:

“God I thank You so much that we can have fun with You! Even with a silly *Frozen* song, You remind us to let things go so we can forgive like You and like Jesus. Let us never give up on fully forgiving and loving everyone we meet. Help us to never forget that **[Bottom Line] I choose peace by choosing to forgive.**”

As adults arrive to pick up, tell them they may be hearing “Let It Go” sung by their child a lot today. Tell them to ask kids why they sang that song.

Parent Cue